

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A slider for a disk drive, comprising:
  - a supporting structure having a top surface with a pocket and a plurality of protrusions protruding from the pocket where a protruding end of the protrusions forms an air bearing surface; and
  - a coating on the top surface of the supporting structure other than the protrusions, the coating being formed from a material that is softer than the supporting structure.
2. The slider of claim 1 wherein the coating is located on the pocket of the top surface of the supporting structure.
3. The slider of claim 1 wherein the coating is located on one or more corners of the top surface of the supporting structure.
4. The slider of claim 1 wherein the coating is located along lateral sides edges of the top surface of the supporting structure.
5. The slider of claim 1 wherein the coating is sputtered onto the top surface of the supporting structure.
6. The slider of claim 1 wherein the material of the coating is a metal.

1           7.       The slider of claim 1 wherein the material of the coating is selected from the  
2       group consisting of metals and polymers.

1           8.       A slider for supporting a transducer for use in a disk drive, comprising:

2                   a support structure having a top surface with a pocket with a plurality of air  
3           bearing protrusions, and at least one shock-absorbing protrusion protruding from the  
4           pocket where a protruding end of the air bearing protrusions form an air bearing  
5           surface, and the shock-absorbing protrusion comprises a material that is softer than  
6           the supporting structure.

1           9.       The slider of claim 8 wherein the shock-absorbing protrusion is located at a  
2           corner of the top surface of the supporting structure.

1           10.      The slider of claim 8 wherein the shock-absorbing protrusion is located along  
2           lateral sides edges of the top surface of the supporting structure.

1           11.      The slider of claim 8 wherein the shock-absorbing protrusion is sputtered onto  
2           the top surface of the supporting structure.

1           12.      The slider of claim 8 wherein the shock-absorbing protrusion comprises a  
2           material selected from the group consisting of metals and polymers.

1 13. A magnetic recording device for reading or writing magnetically, comprising:

2 (a) a disk comprising a substrate and a metallic magnetic layer;

3 (b) a head support on a slider for magnetically reading data to or writing  
4 data from the magnetic layer on the disk, the slider comprising a support structure  
5 having a top surface with a pocket and a plurality of air bearing protrusions and at  
6 least one shock-absorbing protrusion protruding from the pocket where a protruding  
7 end of the air bearing protrusions form an air bearing surface, and the shock-  
8 absorbing protrusion comprises a material that is softer than the supporting structure;

9 (c) a motor operable to rotate the disk; and

10 (d) an actuator connected to the slider for moving a head across the disk.

11 14. The device of claim 13 wherein the shock-absorbing protrusion is located at a  
12 corner of the top surface of the supporting structure.

13 15. The device of claim 13 wherein the shock-absorbing protrusion is located  
14 along lateral sides edges of the top surface of the supporting structure.

15 16. The device of claim 13 wherein the shock-absorbing protrusion is sputtered  
16 onto the top surface of the supporting structure.